

Hate Crimes

"Hate Crime" is the common term for federal and state Civil Rights Violations. Hate crimes include any crimes principally motivated by hatred of another because of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, handicap status, or gender. *All hate crimes would still be crimes even if the bias motivation were absent*; therefore, each hate crime listed below is also tallied elsewhere in this report.

In 2000, 8 crimes were reported in Cambridge that could be classified as a "hate crimes":

1. An evening in early January was the second instance in which one 30-year-old man was the target of threats and racial slurs, from a particular counselor at a Central Square shelter. This occurrence was classified as a threat to commit crime.
2. In the wee hours of the morning on May 21st, an individual was standing on the corner of Landsdowne Street and Massachusetts Avenue, when confronted by a young man who was bleeding from the nose and mouth. The young man attempted to provoke the individual, with taunts and insults regarding the individual's sexual orientation. When the individual denied his accusations, the young man spit in the individual's face, covering it with blood. This incident was recorded as a simple assault.
3. At 5:25 pm, on the 10th of July, a 48-year-old man received death threats at his Washington Street residence. Two teen-age males exhibiting disdain for his sexual orientation made the threats. This incident, the last in a series of related incidents that began in January, was categorized as a threat to commit crime.
4. At 2:00am on the 17th of September, a 21-year-old man and two friends were confronted by a gang of 10 to 12 young men, on a Massachusetts Avenue sidewalk. As the gang members continued to shout derisive comments in reference to the three friends' sexual orientation, one of the gang members threw a trash barrel at the 21-year-old man, who then suffered a 2" laceration on his forehead. The incident was coded as an aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.
5. Later on September 17th (at 1:30 in the afternoon) three young women were walking together down a sidewalk near the MBTA kiosk in Harvard Square. The three were approached by a large group of males (aged 18 to 23), who began throwing items at them and barraging them with foul comments referring to their

Hate Crime Motivations

Motivation	1997	1998	1999	2000
Race or National Origin	4	8	9	2
Religion	1	1	1	2
Sexual Orientation	3	3	3	4
Total	8	12	13	8

sexual orientation. The incident translated as a simple assault.

6. On Mount Auburn Street the evening of September 19th, a 21-year-old handicapped man, donning religious garb, was on his way back from a prayer meeting. In front of witnesses, he was grabbed from behind by two gang members, then kicked, beaten, and thrown down a flight of stairs. The male attackers, ages 18 and 23, apparently sought to harm the 21-year-old because of his religious affiliation. This occurrence was considered an aggravated assault with a deadly weapon (shod foot).
7. Sometime between the 9th and 10th of October, an unknown person or persons vandalized a motor vehicle owned by an 18-year-old male. Sugar was poured into the gas tank, and the leather seats, as well as the car's exterior, were scratched and scarred with racial slurs. It was classified as malicious destruction to a motor vehicle.
8. Religious insults, threats, and slurs were spray-painted on a store and a near by dumpster on River Street. This incident occurred between the 24th and 25th of November. An act of this nature is primarily categorized as malicious destruction of property.

The Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1990 was enacted on April 23rd 1990, requiring the Attorney General to collect data on crimes exhibiting racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual prejudice. It was not until September of 1994 that the Act was amended to include biased acts against those with either physical or mental disabilities. The 1999 Uniform Crime Report reveals that there were as many as 7,876 incidents, reported to the FBI in 1999 that categorized as hate crimes. A small portion of these incidents (0.2%, or 19, in total) was disability-related, while the majority of them were race-oriented (56.3%, or 4,295, in total). Religion-oriented hate crimes were measured at 16.5% (1,411, in total), and Ethnic hate crimes at 10.9% (829, in total). Hate crimes based on Sexual Orientation were quoted at 16.0% (1,317 incidents), while Multiple-Bias incidents came